



FloorPrep

Legislative Digest

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

J.C. Watts, Jr.
Chairman
4th District, Oklahoma

*House Meets at 9:00 a.m. for Morning Hour
and 10:00 a.m. for Legislative Business*

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.R. 3544—Pope John Paul II Congressional Gold Medal Act

S. 1402—Veterans and Dependents Millenium Education Act

**H.J. Res. 98—Supporting the Day of Honor for Minority Veterans
from World War II**

**H.Con.Res. 293—Urging Compliance with the Hague Convention on the
Civil Aspects of Child Abduction**

**H.R. 4489—Immigration and Naturalization Service Data
Management Improvement**

**H.R. 3637—Private Mortgage Insurance Technical Correction and
Clarification Act**

H.R. 2498—Cardiac Arrest Survival Act

H.R. 3639—Designating the “Harry S. Truman Federal Building”

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Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules

Floor Situation: The House will consider the following eight bills under suspension of the rules as its first order of business today. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires two-thirds majority vote for passage.

H.R. 3544 awards the Congressional Gold Medal to Pope John Paul II in recognition of his many contributions to peace and religious understanding. The measure directs that the president, after consulting with congressional leaders, will determine the provisions by which the medal will be awarded. The Treasury Secretary will determine the emblems, devices and inscriptions to be placed on the medal. Furthermore the bill allows for bronze duplicates of the medal to be made for resale at a price sufficient to cover the costs of making the duplicate medals.

Finally, the bill authorizes \$30,000 to be charged against the Numismatic Public Enterprises Fund to pay for the cost of the medal, and that any proceeds from the sale of duplicate medals shall be deposited into that fund. The bill was introduced by Mr. Leach on January 27, 2000. H.R. 3544 was not considered by a House Committee. A CBO cost estimate was unavailable at press time.

S.1402 makes a number of changes to provide greater educational assistance to veterans and their survivors under the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB), and other programs. The bill increases the current MGIB rate from \$536 to \$600 a month on October 1, 2000 and \$720 a month on October 21, 2002 for full time students. Part-time students will receive proportionate increases. The measure also increases Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance. The measure allows another opportunity for individuals still on active duty to convert from the Veterans Education Assistance Program to the MGIB for \$2,700, which can be paid incrementally. Finally, the bill extends a number of temporary authorities within the Department of Veterans Affairs to 2008, from September 30, 2002.

H.J.Res. 98 (1) commends and honors African American, Hispanic American, Asian American, Native American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, Native Alaskan, and other minority veterans of the United States Armed Forces who served during World War II; (2) supports the goals and ideas of the Day of Honor 2000 in celebration and recognition of the extraordinary service of minority veterans; and (3) authorizes and requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to these honor minority veterans with appropriate programs and activities. The bill was introduced by Ms. Jackson-Lee on April 12, 2000. H.J.Res. 98 was not considered by a House Committee.

H.Con.Res. 293 urges European countries to (1) comply fully with both the letter and spirit of their international legal obligations under the Hague Convention, particularly those European civil law countries that consistently violate the Hague Convention such as Austria, Germany and Sweden; (2) ensure their compliance with the Hague Convention by enacting effective legislation and educating their judicial and law enforcement authorities; and (3) honor their commitments and return abducted or wrongfully retained children to their place of habitual residence without reaching the merits of any underlying custody dispute and ensure parental access rights by removing obstacles to the exercise of such rights. Furthermore, the resolution authorizes the Secretary of State to disseminate to all Federal and State courts an annual report to Congress on Hague Convention compliance and related matters. Lastly, the resolution urges contracting parties to the Hague Convention to further educate its central authority and local law enforcement authorities regarding the severity of the problem of international child abduction, and the need for immediate action when a parent of an abducted child seeks their assistance. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Chabot on March 23, 2000. H.Con.Res. 293 was not considered by a House Committee.

H.R. 4489 requires the U.S. Attorney General to implement an integrated entry and exit data system for the arrival and departure of aliens coming into and leaving the United States. The bill also establishes a task force to be chaired by the Attorney General to evaluate how best to implement the new data entry/ departure system, to improve traffic flow at airports, seaports and land border points of entry, and the cost

of each of these recommendations. The task force is to submit a report to Congress with its findings, conclusions and recommendations. The Attorney General is also required to make legislative recommendations to implement the task force's recommendations and to obtain funding authorization. The bill was introduced by Mr. Smith *et al.* on May 18, 2000. H.R. 4489 was not considered by a House Committee. A CBO cost estimate was unavailable at press time.

H.R. 3637 amends the Homeowners Protection Act of 1998, (1) by changing the definition of "cancellation date" for "amortization schedules" with, and defines, "amortization schedule then in effect" for purposes of adjustable rate mortgages; (2) includes balloon mortgages within the definition of "adjustable rate" mortgages; (3) states that if a residential mortgage loan is modified (with mortgagor-mortgagee agreement) the cancellation date, termination date, or final agreement will be recalculated to reflect such modifications; (4) extends mortgage insurance cancellation rights beyond the cancellation date for qualifying borrower who is current on required payments; (5) revises the automatic termination date with respect to a mortgagor who is not current on payments as of the mortgage termination date; (6) states that the cancellation or termination of private mortgage insurance will not affect the rights of any mortgagee, servicer, or insurer to enforce any accrued obligation for premium payments; and (7) revises specified definitions. The bill was introduced by Ms. Roukema *et al* on February 10, 2000. H.R. 3637 was not considered by a House Committee. An official CBO cost estimate was unavailable at press time.

H.R. 2498 amends the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to: (1) assist in providing for an improvement in the survival rates of individuals who experience cardiac arrest in Federal buildings by publishing in the Federal Register for public comment recommendations with respect to placing automatic external defibrillators in such buildings; and (2) assist Federal agencies in implementing programs for such placement.

The measure also requires the Secretary to determine criteria for: (1) the selection of the Federal public buildings in which defibrillators should be placed; (2) defibrillator maintenance; and (3) the coordination of the use of the defibrillators in public buildings with emergency medical services providers for the geographic areas in which the buildings are located. Finally, the measure provides that any person who provides emergency medical care through the use of a defibrillator, any person who maintained, tested, or provided training in the use of the device, any physician who provided medical oversight of the device, and the person who acquired the device (if specified conditions have been met) is immune from civil liability for any personal injury or wrongful death resulting from the provision of such care, unless the person engaged in gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct under the applicable circumstances. The bill was introduced by Mr. Sterns on July 13, 1999. The Commerce Committee reported the bill by voice vote on May 17, 2000. A CBO cost estimate was unavailable at press time.

H.R. 3639 designates the Federal building located at 2201 C Street, Northwest, in Washington D.C., as the Harry S. Truman Federal Building. Currently, this Federal building is headquarters for the Department of State. The bill was introduced by Mr. Skelton on February 10, 2000. H.R. 3639 was not considered by a House Committee. A CBO cost estimate was unavailable at press time.

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Completion of Legislative Business Pending Before the House

The House will complete pending legislative business, H.R. 4392, providing appropriations for the intelligence activities of 11 federal agencies and amendments pending thereto. Pending were the following amendments on which rollcall votes have been ordered:

Messrs. Roemer, Moran (VA), Smith (WA), and Mr. Blumenauer amendment to require the Director of Central Intelligence to submit a report to Congress not later than February 1 of each year containing an unclassified statement of the aggregate appropriations for U.S. intelligence activities for each preceding fiscal year. *Staff Contact: Pete Spiro, x5-3915.*

Mr. Traficant amendment requiring the Director of the CIA submit a report to Congress that updates and revises the report mandated by last year's Intelligence authorization (*P.L. 106-120*) that details the effects of economic espionage against the United States. *Staff Contact: Dan Blair, x5-5261*

Mr. Traficant amendment requiring the Director of Central Intelligence to report within 60 days after enactment on whether the goals and policies of the People's Republic of China constitutes a threat to the national security of the United States. *Staff Contact: Dan Blair, x5-5261*

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